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Washington, D. C. 20505	

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DIREC	CTORATE OF INTELLIC	GENCE
	19 April 1983	
Japan: Nakasone C	ontemplates "Doubl	e Elections" 25X1
yet made a decision to d	dissolve the Lower th the Upper House he must decide in a lding in favor of ling by the ruling	elections which must be the near future, and we holding double
The Debate		
elections. Those opposed in both the Lower and Up Fukuda, Miki and faction controversial and that make before seeking a puthe press, even some ment Deputy Chief Cabinet Section and that a significant loss all faction leaders who reported to have urged to	ed focus on possible oper House. Former in leader Komoto are more time is needed public vote of confiners of Nakasone' cretary Fujinami, of LDP seats is pare opposing doub	r Prime Ministers e in this camp, ve Nakasone is too d to improve his public fidence. According to s faction, including have advised Nakasone ossible. Nonetheless le elections are
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This memorandum was preport Northeast Asia Division Information available as preparation. Comments directed to the Chief, OEA	, Office of East A s of 19 April 1983 and queries are we	was used in its lcome and may be
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Those	e LDI	P me	mbers	who	bel	ieve	elec	etic	ns sh	noul	d be	e helo	1,	
according	to	the	press	, are	sug	ggest	ing	26	June	as	the	most	<u>likel</u>	У
date.														

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supporters of a double election argue that:

- -- Most LDP Lower House candidates have already begun election campaigns on the assumption that double elections will be held in June. A significant portion of their campaign funds has already been spent, and contributors--especially big business--will be reluctant to supply funds again next year.
- -- Low voter turnout would hurt the LDP, and Upper House elections alone cannot sustain voter interest.
- -- Despite the Nakasone Cabinet's poor showing in public opinion polls, support for the party itself has changed little.
- -- The leftist opposition parties are in poor financial shape to conduct a nationwide campaign. In addition, the media are giving wide play to Levchenko's charges in his book that leading Socialist Party members acted as Soviet agents.
- -- Prime Minister Nakasone could exploit media coverage of his forthcoming trips to the Williamsburg Economic Summit and to ASEAN.

Nakasone's Dilemma

Nakasone probably favors a double election this summer to consolidate his political base. However, in addition to concern that the LDP might lose seats, we believe he probably is hesitant because his opponents could charge this action was another 25xx demonstration that he is dominated by Tanaka.

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At a 13 April press conference, Nakasone stated that "as a matter of principle" the Lower House should serve out its term-until June 1984--and that he has no plan to hold an early election. Nonetheless, with Tanaka's strong urging, we believe Nakasone privately is edging toward holding double elections this summer. According to the Japanese press, Nakasone considers his low popularity less damaging than the impact of the expected guilty verdict against Tanaka at the conclusion of the Lockheed trial this fall.

As a campaign platform he could cite:

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- -- Successfully getting the budget through the Diet.
- -- Implementation of economic stimulative measures in March.
- -- His promise to consider a tax cut later in 1983.

A watershed could be the local elections on 24 April. Although the press played up LDP losses in local voting on 10 April in Fukuoka and Hokkaido, in reality the party scored impressive gains in most of the 13 prefectures. They gained seats in many local assemblies and councils. If the party does well on 24 April, Nakasone may read this as a sign of national strength and opt for elections this summer.

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